REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants greatly appreciate the withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

The above amendments to the specification address the Examiner's concerns, and identify the so-called "bone structure" using the more typical phrase "framework architecture." However, as the Examiner will note, this term has been removed from the claims.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the claims as originally filed, placing them in more conventional U.S. format. New Claims 13-19 parallel original Claims 6-12. No new matter has been entered.

The pending claims describe a product and method exemplified herein by Examples 1 and 2 at specification pages 16-18. As noted in, e.g., Example 1, a phenol resin/powdered silicon/ethyl alcohol slurry was impregnated onto a laminated corrugated fiber board made of powdered activated carbon. After carbonization at 1,000°C for one hour, reaction sintering and melt impregnation of silicon were performed to provide a silicon carbide-based heat-resistant porous composite material.

Luhleich, the applied reference, is quite different. Luhleich describes the coating of a graphitic molded article with a resin solution having, e.g., silicon suspended therein followed by coking and silicon carbide formation. See, e.g., column 2, lines 47-59 of the reference. Examples I and II of the reference describes the general methodology. See columns 3 and 4 of Luhleich.

In column 5 of Luhleich an alternative procedure is suggested, and it is contrasted with that of Examples I and II: dipping a graphitic molded body in melted silicon. See, e.g., column 5, lines 14-25. As explained there, Examples I and II of the reference are considered superior to such dipping, as "the procedure of dipping the molded article in melted silicon may be subject to a rate of impregnation of the surface depending upon the kind of graphitic

material used in making the molded body" while the procedures of Examples I and II "have the advantage of establishing the silicon or zirconium content of the outer layers in a manner independent of the particular material chosen for the making of the molded portion of the article."

Nowhere in Luhleich is it suggested that both the methodology of, e.g., Examples I and II and dipping in melted silicon be performed. In fact, these two methodologies are *contrasted* with one another, and clearly not considered to be combinable. Bookbinder a secondary reference, does not teach anything noteworthy in this regard, and thus does not make up for that lacking in Luhleich.

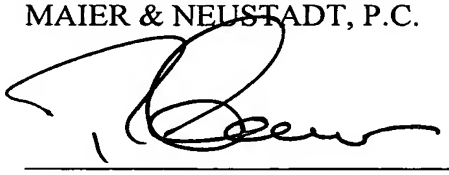
Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is requested, as is an early Notice of Allowance.

Finally, Applicants note the Examiner's comment at page 2 of the Official Action dated October 25, 2006, regarding a due date based on the September 12, 2006, Official Action. However, in view of the lack of a set shortened statutory period in the September 12 Communication, Applicants submit that the present response is due three months from the October 25, 2006, Communication. Should the Office disagree, Applicants hereby request a one-month extension of time and authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account 15-0030.

Accordingly, and as all outstanding issues have been addressed, and as this application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request early action in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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